

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 2310

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), PFOR, UN, MX, SHUM, EAID, XL
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO COSTA RICA: MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT ODUBER, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO AND OTHERS

SUMMARY: AT AN EXTRAORDINARILY CORDIAL AND FRANK 4-HOUR
DINNER MEETING PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO
AND OTHERS AMB YOUNG AND HIS PARTY DISCUSSED A WIDE
RANGE OF MULTILATERAL AND
BILATERAL ISSUES INCLUDING: CARIBBEAN PROSPECTS, HUMAN
RIGHTS, TRADE, CUBA AND HAITI. ODUBER EXPRESSED HIS
GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE VISIT AND WITH THE ADMINIS-
TRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. A PRESIDENTIAL MEETING
WITH ODUBER DURING HIS VISIT TO THE US FOR HIS UNGA
SPEECH ON OCT 20 WOULD HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON THIS
INFLUENTIAL LEADER. END SUMMARY

1. ON AUGUST 8, AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND WEISSMAN, LA
AID ADMINISTRATOR VALDEZ, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SHELTON, ARA POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR EINAUDI, DCM KILDAY
AND MISOFF HAD A FOUR-HOUR WORKING DINNER WITH PRESIDENT
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ODUBER, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, EDUCATION MINISTER VOLIO
AGRICULTURE MINISTER QUIROS GUARDIA AND FRENANDO NARANJO,
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF THE COSTA RICAN SOCIAL SECURITY
SYSTEM. THE MEETING WAS EXTRAORDINARILY CORDIAL AND
FRANK AND COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING
A FORMAL BRIEFING BY ODUBER ON CARIBBEAN PROSPECTS
AND PROBLEMS. ODUBER AND OTHERS EXPRESSED GREAT SATIS-

FACTION WITH MS. CARTER'S AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISITS
AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF RENEWED USINTEREST IN AN AREA
TOO LONG NEGLECTED BY US.

2. FOLLOWING DINNER, ODUBER GAVE A FORMAL BRIEFING ON
CARIBBEAN PROSPECTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CARIBBEAN
MUST BE CONSIDERED A BASIC LINE OF DEFENSE FOR THE US.
BY 1980 THERE WILL BE MORE INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES
IN THE CARIBBEAN THAT IN THE REST OF THE OAS PUT TOGETHER
AND THE CARIBBEAN WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT
ROLE IN DETERMINING HEMISPHERE POLICY.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, COSTA RICA IS SEEKING, HOPEFULLY
WITH US BLESSINGS, TO FOSTER CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION.
THE BOGOTA FIVE MEETING, NAMUCAR AND CARIFTA ARE EVIDENCE
OF THESE EFFORTS. (ODUBER HAD EARLIER IDENTIFIED
A MIDDLE AMERICAN COMMON MARKET AS A MAJOR GOAL BUT
FACIO STRESSED THE NEED FOR EVOLUTION OF MORE HOMOGENEOUS
POLITICAL SYSTEMS FIRST.) WHAT IS NEEDED IN PARTICULAR
IS PROGRESS ON SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES IN THE REGION:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BELIZE, EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS, PANAMA
(SEPTEL) AND HAITI. GOCR COOPERATION WITH VENEZUELA,
MEXICO AND JAMAICA HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CLOSE. ODUBER
REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROVIDE, THE NECESSARY BASIS
FOR DEMOCRACY (BUT DENIED HE IS A MARXIST) AND
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STRESSED THE NEED FOR FURTHERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
THERE WAS A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE COSTA RICAN SIDE
THAT THE US HAD LONG NEGLECTED THE CARIBBEAN AND THAT
THE US PRESENCE THERE HAD TOO LONG BEEN IN THE FORM
OF MNC'S AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. ODUBER EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION
AT THE "FRESH WINDS" FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH
BLOW FROM THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION. "INTERVENTION ON
BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS "OKAY". ODUBER AND FACIO
STRONGLY AGREED WITH THE NEED FOR THE US TO RESPOND
POSITIVELY TOWARDS COUNTRIES WITH GOOD HUMAN
RIGHTS RECORDS AND STRESSED THE DIRECT CONNECTION
BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITABLE INCOME
DISTRIBUTION ON THE ONE HAND AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ON THE OTHER. YOUNG SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS,
OUR POLICY IS STILL BEING ELABORATED. HE AGREED
THAT HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDES ECONOMIC RIGHTS. FACIO
PROMISED TO REPLY LATER TO OUR QUERY ABOUT GOCR TACTICS
ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL. WHILE
HE SAW NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS THIS YEAR, BOTH SIDES

AGREED IT WAS WORTH MAKING A GOOD EFFORT. YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT LOST A BATTLE YET AT THE UN. WE EMPHASIZED OUR INTEREST IN DOING OUR BEST TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL AND PROVIDED FACIO WITH THE WORKING GROUPS LATEST DRAFT RESOLUTION. WE ALSO PROVIDED HIM WITH A COPY OF OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION ON TORTURE. YOUNG EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN WITH THE UN'S INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF GENOCIDE.

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5. TRADE. ODUBER, FACIO ET AL MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR BETTER TERMS OF TRADE, PARTICULARLY PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF COSTA RICAN MEAT, SUGAR AND INDIAN SQUASH. ON MEAT, YOUNG SAID HE THOUGHT WE COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP. ODUBER SAID CR COULD HOLD THE LINE ON COFFEE WITH US HELP.

6. CUBA. ODUBER AND FACIO SAID THE CUBAN ECONOMY IS IN BAD SHAPE AND REPEATEDLY ALLUDED TO THE DANGERS THAT CUBA POSES TO THE CARIBBEAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, CASTRO HAS NOT EXPORTED A SINGLE WEAPON TO COSTA RICA IN 20 YEARS NOR MADE ANY EFFORT TO SET OFF ANY BOMBS. CASTRO IS SEEKING TO CREATE A FORM OF DEMOCRACY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND THERE IS A CHANCE THAT CUBA WILL RETURN TO THE FOLD. CASTRO HAS SLOWLY COME TO RESPECT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. CUBA'S AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT HAS TARNISHED ITS IMAGE IN THE HEMISPHERE AS WELL AS TRIGGERED MISGIVING AT HOME--

A KIND OF REVERSE VIET NAM. YOUNG SAID THAT CUBA'S INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH US IS A REFLECTION OF CUBA'S SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. CASTRO IS PROUD AND DOESN'T LIKE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION. CUBA NEITHER WANTS TO NOR CAN INDUSTRIALIZE UNDER THE SOVIET SYSTEM; IT NEEDS ACCESS TO US GOODS, KNOW-HOW AND MARKET. IF WE CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH NORMALIZATION, CUBA WILL INEVITABLY BE GREATLY INFLUENCED BY US CULTURAL PYTTERNS; CONSUMER PRESSURES ON THE CUBAN GOVT CAN BE ONE WAY OF EASING HOSTILITY. ODUBER NOTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM. THE COSTA RICANS SAW NO ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM IN THE NORMALIZATION OF US/CUBAN TIES.

7. HAITI. ODUBER STRESSED THE NEED TO "LIBERATE" HAITI OVER TIME FROM BABY DOC BY A MULTINATIONAL EFFORT WITH US BACKING. IT IS NECESSARY TO EMPLOY FOREIGN AID TO BUILD UP AN ELITE IN HAITI. ODUBER SAID HE HAD BEEN DEFENDING THE NEED FOR FOREIGN AID TO HAITI WITH THE MEXICANS. HE SUGGESTED THAT YOUNG USE HIS VISIT TO HAITI TO GIVE BABY DOC A MESSAGE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH THE VICE PRESIDENT GAVE TO VORSTER. YOUNG AGREED THIS WOULD BE USEFUL.

8. OTHER. ODUBER NOTED THE DANGER THAT THE BELIZE DISPUTE REPRESENTS, PARTICULARLY THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IF THINGS GO SOUR. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A DEVICE TO ENABLE THE GUATEMALAN ARMY TO SAVE FACE; PERHAPS ACCESS TO THE SEA OR SOME TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENT. THE GOCR WANTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COSTAL ROAD FORM THE YUCATAN, ONE REASON FOR INTEREST IN "SAVING" BELIZE.

9. OTHER. ODUBER INDICATED INTEREST IN MORE CONTACT WITH AFRICAN LEADERS. HE SAID THAT WITH US PRESSURE AN EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS PEACE TREATY COULD BE SIGNED CONFIDENTIAL

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IN A WEEK. THE DISCUSSION OF PANAMA WAS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.

10. COMMENT: THE DINNER MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY EXTRAORDINARY FRANKNESS AND CORDIALITY. ODUBER SEEM VERY PLEASED WITH THE VISIT AS WAS REFLECTED

IN FREQUENT EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION AND THE
VERY WARM WELCOME ACCORDED YOUNG ON HIS ARRIVAL.

11. RECOMMENDATION: ODUBER WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR HIS
ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 20. A
PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH ODUBER DURING HIS VISIT
TO THE UNITED STATES FOR HIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPEECH
WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THIS INFLUENTIAL
DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED LEADER.

12. AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS THAT AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN MAY HAVE ON
THE WORKING DINNER.
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